

From the Editor

Editorship since the Roman period and Planck's principle

Being the editor was a difficult job even in Roman Era. We can all imagine the famous scene: The Colosseum in Rome is rumbling with the uproar of the audience. The victorious gladiator is waiting for the final call for the fate of his opponent down on the ground. All eyes are on the *Editor's* hand to see what the decision is... Yes, that's right, the person organizing gladiator fights in Rome was called an *Editor* or aka *muneraris* (1). He would base his decision to "kill or let live" on the wishes of the emperor and the public and his task would be considered successful if people left the arena satisfied with this entertainment.

In today's modern world, Editors are operating in a totally different environment; nonetheless the decision to be made is still demanding, even more than ever before. In Roman times, satisfying the public with the decision on that day was considered sufficient, while today, editors are required to do the "right thing" against all odds. Publishing scientific journals is a marathon, and wrong or biased decisions can irrevocably influence the trust shown to and scientific value of a journal. A timely manuscript processing is another important aspect contributing to a journal's reputation. The pressure to make a "rightful and fast" evaluation contribute to a cumulative increase in dwell times and fatigue for the editorial board, causing decreased productivity in time although the fatigue itself is not actually noticed at first.

In 2016 when I was appointed editor-in-chief of AOTT by TOTDER and TOTBID executive boards, from the previous editor Dr. Mehmet Demirhan, the journal was already indexed in all noteworthy international indices and institutionalized. I had the opportunity to collaborate with skilled associate and technical editors during my time in service. With their invaluable contributions, we were able to realize many projects and reached our most important goals. During these 5 years, we had to switch twice to a new publisher, twice to a new article processing system and three times to a new website. We uploaded the complete archive after 2016 to PubMed Central and were able to complete all missing issues until the first issue published in 1962. The technical editors started to revise and even rewrite the abstracts of all published articles. All these challenges denoted a great deal of work for technical editors and difficulty in adapting for the associate editors, delaying our efforts to increase productivity. Despite everything, we were able to move beyond our goals in terms of scientific publishing:

1. The WoS impact factor our journal reached 1.12 in 2019 from 0.4 in 2015, moving beyond the threshold of 1.0 we had been trying to

reach. Similarly, WoS specialty rank reached the 23rd percentile in 2019 from the 12th percentile in 2015. Impact factor for 2020 is calculated to be around 1.4, expecting to rise to the third quartile.

2. The journal's process time between submission to first decision was an average of 100 days, due to the previously mentioned necessities to switch article processing systems. Significant contributions from associate editors have helped us reach the lowest duration in 2020; 44 days.

The famous German physicist Max Planck has, in addition to his "Planck's constant" and "Planck's distance" principles that have paved the way to quantum physics, another less known principle: "Science progresses one funeral at a time" (2). Although shocking at first read, I also share the view that young scientists will be able to provide progress through new and different points of view. Just like science itself, scientific publishing is a relay race. The prerequisite for success is for each runner to leave his place for a newcomer who is fresh and strong, before he is exhausted or even "dead". I had the wonderful opportunity to work at all positions in this journal, starting with typesetting 31 years ago. My 5-year term as editor-in-chief proved to be enjoyable but somewhat demanding. Today, I am honored to pass the pole I have cherished all this time, to the new editor-in-chief Prof. Haluk Berk, who was a long-time member on the editorial board. I have full trust in Dr. Berk and the new board in that they will take our journal to much higher levels.

Last, on behalf of myself, our readers and authors, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all AOTT editors who have presented us with their invaluable time and expertise, free from all expectations. Our society will always remember and appreciate their efforts. I am grateful to the executive boards of TOTDER and TOTBID who have supported and provided us with the best possible environment at a time of immense financial difficulties. And finally, I am indebted to our readers and authors trusting us with their work.

Respectfully,
Prof. Önder KILIÇOĞLU
AOTT Former Editor-in-Chief

References

1. The Language of the Arena, by Shelby Brown. Archeology. <https://archive.archaeology.org/gladiators/glossary.html> - assessed on December 25, 2020
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planck%27s_principle - assessed on December 25, 2020